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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 NEA-11 ISO-00
OES-07 HEW-06 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 HA-05 OMB-01 /162 W
----------080022 221840Z /47
P 221753Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9964
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
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AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 07873

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WHO IS
SUBJECT: WHA - US STATEMENT ON ARAB RESOLUTION

REF: GENEVA 7719

1. DURING COURSE OF 4-HOUR DEBATE ON ARAB DRAFT RESOLUTION IN COMMITTEE B ON MAY 22, WHICH ENDED WITH ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION WITHOUT AMENDMENTS BY VOTE OF 63-21(US)-12 (SEPTEL), AMBASSADOR WILLIAM VANDEN HEUVEL, SPEAKING FOR USDEL, MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

2. BEGIN STATEMENT: MR. PRESIDENT,

MAY I BEGIN BY EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF MY GOVERN-MENT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS FOR THEIR DEDICATED WORK. WHEN MY GOVERNMENT LEARNED THAT THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES HAD AGREED TO FACILITATE AN UNIMPEDED VISIT OF INSPECTION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITOR-IES BY OUR ASSEMBLY'S SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS (SCE), THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION AMONG OFFICIALS
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RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AFFAIRS, IN GENERAL, AND FOR OUR PARTICIPATION IN WHO, IN PARTICULAR. THE NEWS PROMPTED US TO HOPE THAT THE IMPASSE THAT HAS EXISTED IN THIS ASSEMBLY FOR THE PAST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS CONCERNING THIS VISIT WOULD FINALLY BE BROKEN. REPORTS FROM OUR EMBASSY IN ISRAEL LATER INFORMED US THAT THE SCE HAD BEEN ABLE TO TRAVEL WHEREVER IT WISHED AND TO SPEAK WITH WHOMEVER IT WISHED. THIS INFORMATION INDICAT-ING FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE SCE'S MANDATE FROM THIS ASSEMBLY MADE US THINK THAT THE WAY WOULD NOW BE OPEN TO ASSIGN THE CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MONITORING THE SITUATION TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL WHOSE FAIR-MINDED ADMINISTRATION OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS A PILLAR OF ITS STRENGTH.

WHEN ON MAY 8 WE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ THE SCE'S REPORT, WE CONTINUED TO FEEL THAT SUCH A POSSIBILITY EXISTED. THE REPORT MAY HAVE HAD MORE NEGATIVE THAN POSITIVE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THE HEALTH CONDITIONS THE SCE FOUND, BUT THE OVERALL IMPRESSION WAS ONE THAT SEEMED LIKELY TO BE HELPFUL. THE REPORT POINTED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AREAS THAT ARE WEAK, BUT ALSO TO SOME THAT

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WERE STRONG, AND IT CERTAINLY CONTAINED NO EVIDENCE OF CONDITIONS THAT NEEDED TO BE KEPT SECRET FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. IN FACT, IT WAS NOT VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE KINDS OF REPORTS AVAILABLE FROM UNRWA AND THE RED CROSS. CONSEQUENTLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, MY DELEGATION HOPED THAT THIS ASSEMBLY WOULD HAVE BEFORE IT THE CUSTOMARY DRAFT RESOLUTION THANKING THE SCE FOR ITS REPORT AND ASKING THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO KEEP THE ASSEMBLY REGULARLY INFORMED OF THE SITUATION.

THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IN CONFERENCE PAPER NO. 8 IS, OF COURSE, VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT. WITH A SENSE OF

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REGRET AND CONCERN THE U.S. WILL CAST ITS VOTE AGAINST
THIS PROPOSED RESOLUTION.

THE WHO IS NOT GOING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE
EAST. IT DOES NOT HAVE THE POWER OR THE SLIGHTEST
SUGGESTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO RESOLVE THE
POLITICAL-MILITARY COMPLEXITIES OF THE ISRAELI-ARAB
CONFLICT. TO SAY THIS IS NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE THE
ANGUISH THAT ALL OF US FEEL ABOUT THE CONTINUING STRUGGLE.
WE BELIEVE THAT THE HOPE THAT ILLUMINATED THE WORLD
LAST NOVEMBER MUST BE STRENGTHENED. ALL OF OUR COUN-
TRIES MUST NOT HESITATE TO TAKE ANY NEW STEP THAT HOLDS
THE PROMISE OF PEACEFUL PROGRESS.

WE RESPECT THE WORK OF THOSE WHO HAVE PREPARED THE DRAFT
RESOLUTION IN CONFERENCE PAPER NO. 8. WE APPRECIATE THE
DEEP FEELINGS OF THOSE WHO HAVE ARGUED FOR AND AGAINST
ITS CONTENTS. BUT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION IS CONTRARY TO
THE HISTORIC MISSION OF WHO, AND IN ITS POLITICAL
EMPHASIS LOSES THE FOCUS OF WHAT SHOULD BE THE CONCERN
OF ALL OF US -- THE HEALTH AND MEDICAL WELFARE OF THE
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PEOPLE OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS THIS YEAR THAT SHOULD NOT BE

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IGNORED. THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS HAS FULFILLED ITS DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENT WITH PROFESSIONAL EFFECTIVENESS. WE CAN CONTINUE TO TAKE PRIDE IN THE WORK OF UNRWA WHICH MAINTAINS ITS HEROIC EFFORTS TO ALLEVIATE SUFFERING.
BUT BY CAUSING WHO TO RECORD RESOLUTIONS THAT IN SIGNIFICANT PART ARE PROPERLY THE CONCERN OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES, WE BELIEVE THE STRENGTH OF WHO IS DILUTED AND ITS COMMITMENT TO UNIVERSAL PROFESSIONALISM IS UNDERMINED.
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT LOOKS TO THAT DAY -- HOPEFULLY SOON -- WHEN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS WILL BE FREED OF THE BURDEN OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH THEY CANNOT SOLVE AND WHICH DIMINISH THEIR STRENGTH IN FACING THE PROBLEMS FOR WHICH THEY WERE ORGANIZED. END STATEMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2619416
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHA - US STATEMENT ON ARAB RESOLUTION
TAGS: MILI, IS, WHO
To: STATE
Type: TE
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